IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title appearing at the top of page 1 as follows:

LIGHT MODULATION APPARATUS, ~~AND~~ IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS, AND DRIVE METHODS ~~THEREOF~~ THEREFOR

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 16 of page 1 as follows:

Figs. 1A and 1B are schematic views showing an operational principal of a related art light modulation apparatus mainly including a polarizing plate 1 and a GH cell 2, and Fig. 1C is a graph showing a rectangular waveform of a drive voltage to be applied to the GH cell 2. In the figures, for ~~an easy understanding~~ ease of description, components of a liquid crystal device other than the GH cell 2, for example, two ~~grass~~ glass substrates between which the GH cell 2 is held, operational electrodes, and liquid crystal alignment films formed on the substrates are omitted. The GH cell 2 contains liquid crystal molecules 3 and dichroic dye molecules 4. The dichroic dye molecules 4 have a positive type (p-type) light absorption anisotropy capable of absorbing light in the alignment direction of major axes of the molecules, and the liquid crystal molecules 3 have a positive type (p-type) dielectric constant anisotropy.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 21 of page 29 as follows:

The reason ~~why~~ the transmittance of the light modulation apparatus of this embodiment is ~~steely,~~ largely reduced with an increase in applied voltage ~~may be considered~~ is as follows: ~~namely, in the case of~~ when using the negative type host material, since the interaction of liquid crystal molecules at the boundary between a liquid crystal alignment film of the liquid crystal cell and the liquid crystal molecules is very weak upon application of no voltage, light ~~is easy to pass~~ easily passes through the liquid crystal cell when no voltage is applied thereto, and directors (alignment vectors) of the liquid crystal molecules become easy to change when a voltage is applied thereto.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 16 of page 31 as follows:

The reason ~~why~~ the transmittance of the light modulation apparatus of this comparative example is slowly changed with an increase in applied

voltage and the maximum transmittance thereof is relatively small ~~may be considered~~ is as follows: ~~namely, in the case of~~ when using the positive type host material, since the interaction of liquid crystal molecules at the boundary between a liquid crystal alignment film of the liquid crystal cell and the liquid crystal molecules is strong upon application of no voltage, there may remain ~~those of~~ liquid crystal molecules, whose directors do not change or are not easy to change, even when a voltage is applied thereto.